



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

A

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/803,242	03/18/2004	Hans-Jurgen Muller	P04,0038	5979
26574	7590	03/09/2006	EXAMINER	
SCHIFF HARDIN, LLP PATENT DEPARTMENT 6600 SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606-6473			KIKNADZE, IRAKLI	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2882	

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/803,242	MULLER, HANS-JURGEN
	Examiner Irakli Kiknadze	Art Unit 2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4, 9, 10, 12-14, 16 and 19-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5-8, 11 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/18/2004</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 9 recites the limitation "said carrier ring" in line 1.

Claim 10 recites the limitation "said carrier ring" in lines 2 and 3.

There are insufficient antecedent basis for this limitations in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4, 10, 12-14 and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Housfield et al. (US Patent 4,115,697) in vies of Weil (US Patent 3,151,471).

With respect to claims 1, 17 and 18, Housfield teaches a cooling method and system for components of a computer tomography system arranged in a gantry housing, comprising: an air feed device (29) and streaming elements connected to receive and dispose air flows onto the components to be cooled (Fig. 1; column 3, lines 23-33 and column 4, lines 6-9). Housfield fails to teach an air compressor. Weil teaches air conditioning system for electronic instrument cabinets comprising (see Fig. 1) a cooled air feed device including an air compressor (35) compressing air and streaming elements (19) connected to receive the compressed air from the compressor (35) and directed to the elements to be cooled located in the electronic instrument cabinet (11) (column 1, lines 55-65 and column 2, lines 14-24; claims 1 and 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the cooled air feed device as suggested by Weil in the system and method of Housfield, since such a modification would improve cooling by directing the previously cooled air into the compute tomography systems elements arranged in the gantry housing.

With respect to claim 2, Weil teaches that the air compressor (35) positioned adjacent to the elements to be cooled. The air compressor (35) is operable to accept and compress ambient air (Fig. 1; column 2, lines 14-24).

With respect to claims 3 and 18, Weil teaches that a cooling device (34) connected to receive the compressed air to cool the compressed air (Fig.1; column 2, lines 45-47).

With respect to claim 5, Weil teaches lines (25) connected between the air compressor (35) and the streaming elements to conduct the compressed air to the

streaming elements, and heat insulation ((32) of an air expander (22)) at least along sections of the lines (25) (column 3, lines 41-51).

With respect to claims 10, 12-14 and 20, Housfield teaches flow-through openings (31), which may be fan assisted, through which heated air escapes from the gantry housing (see Fig; column 3, lines 30-33).

With respect to claims 5 and 21, Weil teaches a dehumidifier upstream from the streaming elements (column 2, lines 25-29).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 5-8, 11, 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

8. With respect to claims 5-7, prior art fails to teach or make obvious a cooling system for components of a computer tomography system arranged in a gantry housing, comprising: an annular carrier ring in or on which at least one of the components to be cooled is arranged, the annular carrier ring being rotatable around a

measurement space in the gantry housing; and at least one exhaust element mounted stationary and disposed in or on the gantry housing through which the compressed air flows onto the components passing said at least one exhaust element upon a rotation of the carrier ring as claimed including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. With respect to claims 8 and 9, prior art fails to teach or make obvious a cooling system for components of a computer tomography system arranged in a gantry housing, comprising: a plurality of nozzle plates arranged at predetermined circumferential positions in or on the gantry housing as claimed including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

10. With respect to claim 11, prior art fails to teach or make obvious a cooling system for components of a computer tomography system arranged in a gantry housing, comprising: nozzle heads arranged and fashioned such that the compressed air is guided directly to stationary arranged components inside the gantry housing as claimed including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

11. With respect to claim 11, prior art fails to teach or make obvious a cooling system for components of a computer tomography system arranged in a gantry housing, comprising: two coaxial bearings on two opposite sides on a stationary part of the computer tomography system by which the gantry housing is positioned around an axis, the cooling system being fashioned such that the heated air in a region of at least one of the bearings is guided out of the gantry housing in the stationary part as claimed including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

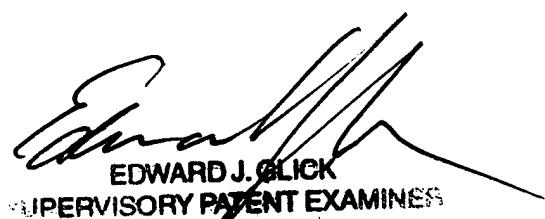
12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Irakli Kiknadze whose telephone number is 571-272-2493. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on 571-272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Irakli Kiknadze
March 6, 2006




EDWARD J. GLICK
~~SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER~~